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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 28, 2003, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2003

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the president pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Our guest Chaplain today is the Chaplain of the House of Representatives, the Rev. Daniel P. Coughlin, who will lead us in prayer.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Father of all and Creator of the whole world, fill our Nation with Your peace and Your blessings, Your splendor of virtues and surpassing gifts.

By Your direction, the heavens are in motion. Day and night fulfill the course You have set. The Sun, the Moon, and the choir of stars revolve in harmony at Your command on their appointed paths. By Your will, the Earth blossoms in full seasons—spring, summer, autumn and winter—following one another all in proper order.

Guide the Members of the Senate today and all the workings of our Government, that the harmony of nature may pattern American life and a new order be established in the community of nations.

This we ask in Your holy name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume consideration of the Foreign Operations appropriations measure. Senator MCCONNELL and the ranking member will be available to discuss and debate amendments. There is an expectation that this bill can be completed in short order. Therefore, if Members do intend to offer amendments, they should contact the cloakroom soon so they are not precluded by a unanimous consent agreement.

As a reminder, at 5:30 p.m. today, the Senate will conduct a cloture vote with respect to the nomination of Michael Leavitt to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. That rollcall vote will be the first vote of today's session. I do anticipate we will be able to invoke cloture and, therefore, would like to complete this nomination procedure at some point tonight.

For the remainder of the week, we will consider and complete the appropriations bills that are available. I will be discussing with Senator STEVENS the remaining appropriations process. This week, we will also be addressing any appropriations conference reports that are made available.

In addition to these bills, the Senate must still act on the fair credit reporting bill. I look forward to the first opportunity to bring that bill to the floor, most likely this week. The Inter-

net tax moratorium legislation has been discussed as a possibility for this week. I do hope Members will be able to work out any differences on that bill. We will need to address this bill soon due to the existing expiration of that moratorium.

Healthy Forests continues to remain a challenge. There had been an initial hope for an agreement to move forward on this bill with amendments that would be relevant. However, we have not been able to have an agreement reached on the relevancy of those amendments, and we will have to consider other options.

The CARE Act is still sitting at the desk ready for conference, but, once again, there is an outstanding objection to that procedure. I mentioned at the end of last week and will mention again, the gun liability measure is one that should be considered before we close out this session. Again, we will be looking for time to do just that.

As mentioned on the floor at the end of last week, we expect to be dealing with the appropriations bills for the most part over the course of the day and spending the early or very late afternoons and early evenings addressing these other very important measures. There may be exceptions to that as issues present themselves, but it will be important for us to continue a dual-tracking approach as agreed to on both sides of the aisle to address the important issues that must be addressed.

As we know and will see later this afternoon and evening, nominations are critically important. They are always a focus. Tonight's vote shows the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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